

--66. An outline forming apparatus comprising:

Sub 61 } storing means for storing pattern data which includes coordinate data corresponding to a first outline point of a pattern having a first weight, and vector information corresponding to the first outline point, the vector information indicating a path on which the first outline point moves to a second outline point of a pattern having a second weight;

input means for inputting weight information;

F } moving means for moving the first outline point based on the weight information input by said input means and the vector information stored in said storing means to obtain a position of a third outline point; and

generating means for generating outline data corresponding to a pattern having a weight indicated by the input weight information based on coordinate data of the third outline point.

67. The outline forming apparatus according to Claim 66, further comprising output means for outputting a pattern having a weight corresponding to the input weight information, based on the outline data generated by said generating means.

Sub 51 } 68. The outline forming apparatus according to Claim 67, wherein said output means comprises a printer.

47 69. The outline forming apparatus according to Claim 66, wherein the vector information represents a relative position of the second outline point to the position of the first outline point.

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F' 70. The outline forming apparatus according to Claim 66, wherein the pattern represents a character pattern.

48 71. The outline forming apparatus according to Claim 66, wherein the first weight is a minimum weight and the second weight is a maximum weight.

53 72. The outline forming apparatus according to Claim 66, wherein the pattern data stored by said storing means includes an outline point having no vector information.

Sub 62 73. An outline forming method for an apparatus which stores pattern data which include coordinate data corresponding to a first outline point of a pattern having a first weight, and vector information corresponding to the first outline point, the vector information indicating a path on which the first outline point moves to a second outline point of a pattern having a second weight, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting weight information;

moving the first outline point based on the weight information input in said input step and the stored vector information to obtain a position of a third outline point; and

generating outline data corresponding to a pattern having a weight indicated by the input weight information based on coordinate data of the third outline point.

F' 74. The outline forming method according to Claim 73, further comprising an output step of outputting a pattern having a weight corresponding to the input weight information, based on the outline data generated in said generating step.

75. The outline forming method according to Claim 74, wherein said output step includes outputting the outline data generated in said generating step to a printer.

76. The outline forming method according to Claim 73, wherein the vector information represents a relative position of the second outline point to the position of the first outline point.

Sub 54 } 77. The outline forming method according to Claim 73, wherein the pattern represents a character pattern.

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78. The outline forming method according to Claim 73, wherein the first weight is a minimum weight and the second weight is a maximum weight.

79. The outline forming method to Claim 73, wherein the stored pattern data includes an outline point having no vector information.

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80. A computer readable medium storing computer program code for controlling an apparatus which stores pattern data which includes coordinate data corresponding to a first outline point of a pattern having a first weight, and vector information corresponding to the first outline point, the vector information indicating a path on which the first outline point moves to a second outline point of a pattern having a second weight, said program code comprising:

input process procedure code for inputting weight information;

moving process procedure code for moving the first outline point based on the weight information input by said input process code and the stored vector information to obtain a position of a third outline point; and

generating process procedure code for generating outline data corresponding to a pattern having a weight indicated by the input weight information based on coordinate of the third outline point.--